The Brilliant Club’s Scholars Programme gives pupils from non-selective state schools the opportunity to work with a PhD researcher to experience university style learning. It helps pupils develop the skills, knowledge and confidence to secure a place at a highly-selective university. We work with pupils from aged 7 to 18, supporting pupils to make an informed choice at 18.

Why get involved?

- Develop key university readiness skills, including critical thinking and metacognition
- Scholars Programme graduates are almost **twice as likely to progress** to highly-selective universities (UCAS evaluation, 2019)
- **Robust impact reports** showcasing use of the Pupil Development Grant
  - Supports schools both to meet Estyn’s Education Inspection Framework and fulfill the Gatsby Benchmarks

The Scholars Programme offers:

- Challenging **supra-curricular** courses taught by a world-class researcher
- Experience of **university-style learning** in small group tutorials
- Two **visits** to highly-selective universities

A national movement

- **800** Schools
- **40** Partner universities
- **15,000** Pupils across the UK
The Scholars Programme

School Impact Report

All pupils complete a challenging final assignment pitched one key stage above their current level. Tutors provide one-to-one feedback in tutorials 6 and 7. Assignments are marked and moderated with university gradings.

Programme planning
A lead teacher at the school will be supported by a Scholars Programme Officer to plan the programme.

In-school tutorials
Their PhD tutor visits the school on a weekly basis to deliver tutorials 2-6. Pupils each receive a course handbook to support them through the programme. Pupils also have access to a virtual learning environment to get support from their tutor.

Course examples
The courses your pupils complete will be unique to the tutor who is working with them, but the examples provide a flavour of the exciting courses pupils could experience.

- Bacteria superheroes: can they help us save our environment?
- Is there anybody out there?: Life in the universe
- Is the internet an artist? Creativity in the digital age
- Mapping the world through contemporary art
- Fantastic viruses and where to find them
- The mind in time: navigating past and future
- Can a computer be my doctor?
- How to rebuild a country

Launch trip
A visit to a highly-selective university to meet their PhD tutor, experience their first tutorial and learn about university life.

Penultimate assignment and feedback
All pupils complete a challenging final assignment pitched one key stage above their current level. Tutors provide one-to-one feedback in tutorials 6 and 7. Assignments are marked and moderated with university gradings.

Graduation trip
A visit to another highly-selective university to celebrate pupils achievements on the programme through the graduation ceremony and learn more about university life. At some venues, parents and carers are also invited.

School impact report
We provide a detailed impact report at the end of the programme outlining pupils’ progress against our university readiness competencies. The report also showcases pupil premium impact and progress against the Gatsby benchmarks.

Pupil selection
The Brilliant Club requires that at least 55% of pupils registered on the programme fulfil at least one of the following criteria:
- Pupil Development Grant
- No parental history of higher education
- Deprivation according to postcode
How to get your school involved:
The school contribution is £179 per pupil, a total of £2,148 per placement, which consists of 12 pupils. This cost is subsidised through contributions from our university partners and external grants and donations.

Programme impact
Independent analysis by UCAS shows that 56% of Year 12 pupils that completed The Scholars Programme progressed to a highly-selective university, compared to only 30% of pupils with similar backgrounds. This is a sizeable and statistically significant difference.

Get in touch!
Click here to enquire, or email tspschools@thebrilliantclub.org to register your interest and discuss with us.